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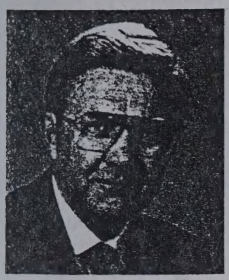
Colorado for Family Values



A Message from Will Perkins

Chairman of the Board, Colorado for Family Values

Dear Friends,

Here we go, into the year 1996. This is the year when our seemingly endless legal journey — 40 months of boycotts, legal attacks and judicial flakiness — finally ends at the steps of the United States Supreme Court. Incredibly, it has been almost five years since we launched the Amendment 2 project. I would have to say it has been an extraordinary experience for me.

Now, entering this fifth year, I cannot help but feel a little philosophical about it all. I think about those on the other side of this issue who call me "hateful." I know much of this is pure political rhetoric, yet I also know that for many homosexuals, it's something they truly believe. They so desperately crave affirmation of their conduct that anyone who disagrees appears hateful to them. Others have a different, curious perspective. They tell me, "We know homosexuality isn't right, but you're just being so divisive!" I answer, "What's the alternative?" Caving in? Handing over my freedom of belief, freedom of speech, freedom of association? Giving up on the whole meaning of civil rights? Giving up on my children's ability to raise a family according to their beliefs? No, after being in this issue for five years, meeting the militants I've met and reading the manifestos they've written, I am more convinced than ever that surrender is simply unthinkable. Former Chief Justice Burger wrote in the last landmark decision on "gay rights" that to give homosexuality government approval would be to "cast aside a millenia of moral teaching." I think Justice Burger was putting it mildly.

If the Colorado Supreme Court's decision is allowed to stand, any self-identified group can claim they have been negatively impacted by an election — and void the whole vote. Anyone can lodge a legal claim of discrimination against you, based on their *perception* of your decision-making process. You can easily see how this will destroy freedom of speech and association. Yet, contrary to our opponents' claims, their own civil rights are not threatened one iota by Amendment 2. They, of course, know this, as they march on to force our nation's affirmation of their lifestyle.

Today, our children are their newest targets. I must regretfully report to you that the drive to force pro-homosexual indoctrination into Colorado's schools has gained frightening new momentum.

This past July, at its national convention, the National Education Association (NEA), the nation's teacher's union, passed a series of radically pro-homosexual Resolutions. The two-million member NEA called for mandatory, pro-gay "sensitivity training" for all educational employees. They set aside last October as the first nationally recognized public-school Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual History Month, to celebrate "the contributions of lesbians, gays and bisexuals throughout history." They called for sex education programs teaching the ". . . diversity of sexual orientation." They called for all schools to offer "sexual/gender orientation" counseling.

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For several years, the NEA's "Handbook for Educators" has advised school libraries to stock books promoting "sexual diversity," to ban books critical of homosexuality, and to introduce "gay/lesbian issues into all curriculum areas." The Handbook labels as "homophobic" any student found guilty of "failing to be supportive when your gay/lesbian friend is sad about a quarrel or a breakup;" or even "feeling that lesbian/gay people are too outspoken about gay rights."

Now, lest you think these are just the empty words of some out-of-touch Eastern elite, let me point out that the NEA is one of the most powerful lobbies in America. It is widely acknowledged that the federal Department of Education was established at the NEA's insistence. This group wields staggering power over the education of every public schoolchild. Nearly every public schoolteacher in Colorado belongs either to the NEA or its state affiliate, the Colorado Education Association. You may not know that the NEA actually submitted a friend-of-the-court brief against Amendment 2 — co-signed by the Colorado Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, the AFL-CIO, American Association of University Professors, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Council of the Great City Schools, and the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies. You might think, "What business is it of educational officials whether state governments give protected status to homosexuals?" I can only answer that they too, seem committed to social engineering — with our children as the guinea pigs.

In fact, the NEA's goals seem lifted directly from Demand #4 of the 1993 March on Washington, when militant gays demanded ". . . full and equal inclusion of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered people in the educational system, and inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered studies in multicultural curricula. "

Let me add that the NEA's use of innocent-sounding terms like "sensitivity training" or "counseling" actually hides far more oppressive goals. History has shown us that "sensitivity training" actually means subjecting employees to hours of homosexual propaganda. One "sensitivity training" session in Washington D.C. forced Pentagon and other federal staffers to sit and hear activists promote everything from the beauty of homosexuality to cross-dressing. Here in Colorado, "sensitivity trainers" at Pueblo State Hospital ended a 1991 mandatory meeting by telling everyone to put on a button stating, "It's okay to be gay." Those who declined to wear the buttons were told to walk forward, turn around and face their colleagues. Needless to say, these folks were traumatized.

In other words, so-called "sensitivity training" will result in anything but sensitivity on the part of those teaching our children. It actually means that our tax dollars will be spent to place well-trained, highly conditioned pro-homosexual recruiters in public classrooms.

In the same way, the NEA's reference to "counseling" means anything but therapy. Here it actually means steering children directly into the homosexual lifestyle. When kids approach pro-gay school counselors with sexual confusion, many of these programs declare them "gay" and immediately make "appropriate referrals," usually meaning introduction to a local Gay and Lesbian Community Center to ease their assimilation into the lifestyle.

These outrages are occuring at the national level. Now let me tell you what we have observed right here in Colorado. A few weeks ago, a Denver Public Schools advisory committee urged area high schools to erect posters inviting all "gay and lesbian" youth to contact a homosexual youth organiza-

tion for "support" — including pairing off with gay "mentor" couples, gay socializing, and pro-homosexual "counseling." Only an uproar from outraged parents prevented these propaganda pieces from actually going up in school hallways.

During the Amendment 2 campaign, the *Denver Post* reported that Denver teachers were being pressured to teach that homosexuality was normal — beginning in kindergarten. Shortly afterwards, during a Denver teachers' conference, educators were given a questionnaire to offer their students with questions like: *"Is it possible that your heterosexuality is just a phase you may grow out of? If you've never slept with a person of the same sex, is it possible that all you need is a good gay lover? How can you become a whole person if you limit yourself to compulsive, exclusive heterosexuality, and fail to develop your natural, healthy homosexual potential?"* Incredibly, pro-family organizations in Washington State recently reported that those very same questions were being handed out there — to kids being held in state youth facilities.

One Colorado Springs junior-high girl shocked her mother by bringing home from her school library a horrifying book filled with pro-gay interpetations of history, theology and biology, and graphic instructions on homosexual acts — and no warning whatsoever about AIDS. I spoke with her superintendent of schools, and he insisted that removing this book from her young eyes would constitute "censorship" and that he would never do it.

Do you recall the New York City controversy over the Rainbow Curriculum — the explicitly pro-gay program complete with instructions in graphic sexual practices, starting in kindergarten? In 1994, a Denver Public Schools curriculum official said that she planned to implement *that same curriculum* in Denver ". . . as soon as CFV pipes down."

Last year, the Colorado Parent Teacher's Association promoted its own NEA-style resolution. It used the same deceptive wording to advocate giving kids ". . . information about homosexuality, bisexuality and transsexuality, and oppose *censorship* of such information, and encourage presentations about homosexuality, bisexuality and transexuality that include *diverse* points of view. . ." (Emphasis added.) It also pledged to ". . . cooperate with *other groups* to further the education of Colorado PTA on the issues. . ." of so-called "homosexual youth." (Emphasis added.) Now, I ask you — which "other groups" will these folks invite to address students? Whose views will they call "information about homosexuality" and whose position will they label "censorship"? By now, you know the sad answer to those questions as well as I do. No equal time allowed. The only information these people recognize is a full, unconditional affirmation of homosexuality.

Publicly, of course, homosexual activists scoff at the suggestion that such programs influence children toward their lifestyle. But we have documented hundreds of quotes where activists freely acknowledge, far from the media microphone, how recruitment plays a vital role in their movement. Never forget the words of the leading lesbian columnist — a Pulitzer Prize nominee — who tells her fellow activists to " . . . argue the morality of teaching kids that gay is OK *even if it means that some join our ranks."* [Emphasis added.]

Friends, this ought not to be. I think of my own grandchildren when I watch these developments, and my blood runs cold. No matter how individual Coloradans may disagree on homosexuality, it is wrong to turn our compulsory public education into a pro-homosexual propaganda session — against parents' wishes.

Yet, these developments are already underway. Quite candidly, I must warn you that without a grass-roots uprising, led by people like you, we will certainly lose our schools. Unless large numbers of parents rise up and get involved, the indoctrination of our children will most definitely take place. As strongly as we opposed the special rights assault on our laws, we must now resist this awful assault on the minds of our own children and grandchildren. We know a vast majority of parents do not want their children indoctrinated with pro-homosexual propaganda. However, the fact is that the educational system is committed to carrying out *exactly what parents do not want.* As parents and taxpayers, you have a right to speak out. So now, in the months ahead, I ask you to take action to keep Colorado schools "Propaganda-free." I ask you to pose good, hard questions to anyone with authority — or seeking authority — over our schools. Questions like: *"Do you personally believe homosexuality is the moral or social equivalent of heterosexuality? Do you believe schools should tell sexually confused students that they are gay? Do you plan on teaching, or allowing to be taught, topics regarding homosexuality and its acceptance?"*

And remember, we're not talking about allowing the neglect or mistreatment of even one Colorado youth who believes he or she might be "gay." No one wants to see those practicing homosexuality abused. Existing laws already punish true harassment — exactly why it is so ludicrous to claim these students can only be protected by encouraging their homosexuality. Students need to be aware that all responsible people deserve respect. But we're talking about protecting our students from indoctrination. That's only fair.

Will you get involved? Together, we can take action to stop these outrages quickly. Please write us here at CFV and let us know your feelings on this issue — or tell us if you've personally witnessed instances of pro-homosexual indoctrination in your schools. We want to hear from you. No matter what, this organization is here to serve you and the concerns you face regarding militant homosexuality. Please, take a minute and drop me a note expressing your position on this new front in our fight for family values.

Please, as you do, remember our urgent financial needs during this crucial time of decision and transition. More than ever, we continue to turn your financial gifts into efficient and effective action. Whether you can support us financially or not, I hope you do join me in standing up for "Propaganda-free" Colorado schools.

Sincerely,

Will Perkins

Will Perkins

P.S. The injection of pro-gay curricula into public schools will definitely happen if we do not act. Please join me and Colorado for Family Values in letting education officials know we will not stand for the homosexual indoctrination of our innocent children. Then, please include your most generous gift possible to help us continue our stand for fairness and freedom in our state.